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Effect of technological interventions of cluster frontline demonstrations (CFLDs) on Productivity and profitability of black gram (*Vigna mungo* L.) in Sahibganj district of Jharkhand

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Abstract

The present study was carried out to evaluate the performance of technological interventions like improved variety, line sowing, seed treatments with fungicide and biofertilizer, balanced nutrition and weed management on productivity and profitability of black gram. Black gram is an important kharif pulse crop in Sahibganj district of Jharkhand covering over 5218 ha with average productivity of 6.5 q/ha which is well below the state average (9.25 q/ha) and national average (9.7 q/ha). Unavailability of improved variety as well as non-adoption of improved cultivation practices in the district is one of the possible reasons for lower average productivity of black gram in the district. To enhance productivity of black gram through improved variety and cultivation practices cluster frontline demonstrations (CFLDs) were conducted during kharif season from 2016-17 to 2019-20. Performance of black gram variety PU 31 in 160 locations along with improved cultivation practices like line sowing, treatment of seed with fungicide and biofertilizer, balanced nutrition and weed management were evaluated in Barharwa and Rajmahal blocks of the district. It was observed that the yield of black gram in CFLD under rainfed conditions ranged from 9.48 to 9.60 q/ha whereas in FP it ranged between 6.35 to 6.53 q/ha. The per cent increase in yield with Improved Practices (IP) over FP was recorded in the range of 46.15 to 49.2. The extension gap and technological index were ranging between 3.0 to 3.13 q/ha and 26.15 to 27.07 per cent, respectively. The trend of technology gap reflected the farmer's cooperation in carrying out demonstrations with encouraging results in subsequent years. The benefit cost ratio was 2.03 to 2.16 under demonstration, while it was 1.54 to 1.76 under farmer's practice. Therefore, the results clearly indicate that the use of improved variety and package of practice with scientific intervention under cluster frontline demonstration programme contribute to increase the productivity and profitability.

Keywords: Extension gap, technology transfer, yield, cluster frontline demonstrations, technology index

Introduction

Black gram being native to India is one of the important pulse crops grown throughout the country. It is very widely used in Indian cuisine and well known by the name urad dal in hindi consumed mainly in form of 'dal' (whole or split, husked and unhusked). It is also used as nutritive fodder for milch animals and as green manuring crop. High value of protein, potassium, calcium, iron, niacin, thiamine, riboflavin in black gram makes it an excellent complement to rice in terms of balanced human nutrition. In Jharkhand black gram occupies a major position in terms of area, production and productivity among the pulses. According to the annual report, 2017-18, GOI, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare) black gram is cultivated in 1.48 lakh hectare with a production of 1.36 lakh tones which constitute 1.48% of national area and 1.36% of production. Black gram is also an important pulse crop of Sahibganj district and occupies an area of 5,218 ha. Kharif black gram is mostly sown in July-August and harvested October-November. The PU 31 is a bold seeded Yellow Mosaic Virus (YMV) tolerant variety with crop duration of 75-85 days depending upon the environmental conditions. Increasing population, consumer awareness and affordability of middle/lower middle and other category citizens up to some degree, the demand of pulse has increased overtime. Over a period of time, a number of improved black gram varieties and production technologies have been

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developed, but the full potential of the varieties as well as technologies could not be exploited due to low rate of adoption and low yield. Thus, factor limiting to productivity cannot be overlooked. Research and extension programme need to be diverted to produce value additive pulse. It may emphasize on quality attributes, adoption and popularization of new agro-technologies, evolving better varieties for stress conditions and improving present yield potential with an aim to raise production through transfer of farm technology.

Cluster front line demonstration (CFLD) is a novel approach to provide a direct interface between researcher and farmer for the transfer of technologies developed by them and to get direct feedback from farming community. To meet the growing demand for food grains, National Development Council (NDC) in its 53rd meeting adopted a resolution to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulse by 10, 8 and 2 million tons respectively by 2011 with an outlay of Rs. 4,882 corers under National Policy for Farmers in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The proposed centrally sponsored scheme 'National Food Security Mission (NFSM)' is to operationalize the resolution of NDC and enhance the production of food grains (Anonymous, 2011) [1]. The concept of Cluster Frontline Demonstration was put forth under this mission. The scheme implemented in a mission mode through a farmer centric approach. The basic strategy of the mission is to promote and extend improved technologies, i.e., seed, micronutrient, soil amendments, integrated pest management, farm machinery and implements, irrigation devices along with capacity building of farmers. The project was implemented by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sahibganj with main objective to boost the production and productivity of pulse through CFLD with latest and specific technologies.

Materials and Method

The study was carried out during Kharif season from 2016-17 to 2019-20 (4 consecutive years) by the KVK Sahibganj, Jharkhand. The villages covered under CFLDs were Chapujan (Block – Barharwa) in 2016-17, Bhimpara (Barharwa) in 2017-18, Lalbandh (Block – Rajmahal) in 2018-19 and Madhuapara (Block – Barharwa) in 2019-20 of Sahibganj district of Jharkhand. Number of locations (beneficiaries) during 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 were 47, 34, 54 and 25, respectively totalling 160. Beneficiaries (farmers/farmwomen) were identified through their participation and feedback received during the preliminary survey, awareness programmes and interactive meetings. Farmers were trained to follow the package and practices for black gram cultivation as recommended by the Birsia Agricultural University and critical inputs for the technologies like seeds, fungicides, biofertilizers were distributed to the farmers however balanced plant nutrients on the basis of soil test value were applied by the farmers from their own resources. Detail of technological interventions are presented in table 1. Regular field visit, monitoring and need based advisories were provided by the scientists of KVK. All 160 demonstration in 50-hectare area were conducted by the active participation of the farmers with an objective to demonstrate the improved technologies of black gram production potential in different villages. In case of local check, the traditional practices were followed by using existing variety. In demonstration plots, use of quality seeds of improved variety (PU 31), line sowing and timely weeding, need based pesticide as well as balanced fertilizer were emphasized. In general, the soil of the experimental plots were sandy loam in texture, acidic in soil reaction (pH 5.8 to 6.2), low to medium in organic carbon

(0.42 to 0.61%), medium status in available nitrogen (310 to 360 kg/ha), low to medium in available phosphorus (8.4 to 12.6 kg/ha) and also low to medium in available potassium (108 to 131kg/ha). The farmers under the programme were facilitated by KVK scientists in performing field operations like sowing, spraying, weeding, harvesting etc. Finally, field day was conducted involving demonstration holding farmers, other farmers in the village, scientist from KVK, officials from Department of Agriculture, local extension functionaries to demonstrate the superiority of technology. The basic information was recorded from the demonstration and control plots and analyzed for comparative performance of the cluster frontline demonstrations (CFLDs) and farmer's practice. The yield data were collected both from the demonstration and farmers practice by random crop cutting method and analyzed by using simple statistical tools. The technology gap and technological index (Yadav *et al.*, 2004) [2] along with the benefit cost ratio (Samui *et al.*, 2000) [3] were calculated by using following formula as given below.

Extension Gap = Demonstration Yield – Farmer's Practice Yield

Technology Gap = Potential Yield – Demonstration Yield

Additional Return = Demonstration Return – Farmer's Practice Return

Technology Index = $\frac{\text{Potential Yield} - \text{Demonstration Yield}}{\text{Potential Yield}} \times 100$

Percent increase in yields = $\frac{\text{Demonstration Yield} - \text{Farmer's Practice Yield}}{\text{Farmer's Practice Yield}} \times 100$

Results and Discussion

Results of the Cluster Frontline Demonstrations conducted during 2016-17 to 2019-20 in different villages of Sahibganj revealed that the improved package and practices is more important with technological intervention for productivity and profitability of pulse. The cultivation practices comprised under CFLD viz use of improved variety, seed treatment, line sowing, balanced application of fertilizers, proper weed control and control of pest through insecticide at economic level evidentially proved superiority over farmer's practice (Table 2). Similar observations were reported by Singh *et al.* (2011). It was found that the average grain yield of black gram under cluster frontline demonstrations were ranged from 9.48 q to 9.60 q ha⁻¹ as compared to 6.35 to 6.53 q ha⁻¹ in case of Farmer's Practice during 2016-17 to 2019-20. As far as per cent increase in demonstration yield over yield obtained under Farmers Practice is concern, an average of 47.52 per cent increase was found during the four years of demonstrations. Data presented in table 2 also indicates that the yield of black gram did not fluctuate significantly over the years in demonstration plots. Similar yield enhancement in different crops in cluster frontline demonstrations were documented by Hiremath *et al.*, (2007) [4] in Onion; Mishra *et al.*, (2009) [5] in Potato; Kumar *et al.*, (2010) [6] in Bajra; Dhaka *et al.*, (2015) [7] in Coriander. The results were also supported by Bairwa *et al.*, (2013) [10] in black gram and Hiremath and Nagaraju (2010) [12] in Chilli crop. The increase in percent of yield was ranged from 46.15 to 49.2 during the four years of study. The results were in conformity with the findings of Katara *et al.*, (2011) [8], Meena *et al.*, and Saikia *et al.* (2018) [15]. The extension gap ranging from 3 to 3.13 q ha⁻¹ over the years of study emphasizes the need to educate the farmers through various means for adoption of improved agriculture practices to reverse the trend of wide extension

gap. The trend of technology gap ranging between 3.4 to 3.52 q ha⁻¹ reflects the farmers cooperation in carrying out demonstrations with encouraging result in subsequent years. Similar findings were recorded by Katare *et al.*, (2011)^[8] in oilseeds and Saikia *et al.*, (2018)^[15] in black gram. The technology gap over the years of study may be attributed to dissimilarity in soil fertility status, rainfall distribution, pest infestation, weed intensity and change in locations of cluster frontline demonstration sites. However, the result observed is an evidence of the better performance in varied environmental condition over farmers practice. The technology index showed the feasibility of the evolved technology at the farmers field. The technology index ranging from 26.15 to 27.07 during the years of study exhibited a decreasing trend over the years with low fluctuation which may be attributed to the dissimilarity in weather condition, soil fertility status and non-availability of water in the crop. The lower the value of technology index the more is the feasibility of technology. Economic performance of black gram under cluster frontline demonstration presented in table 3. Results of economic analysis parameter revealed that the black gram recorded

higher total return of Rs.43,845/-, Rs.47,500/-, Rs.51,840/- and Rs.51,460 per ha during 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, respectively under CFLDs as compared to Rs.29,369/-, Rs.32,500/-, Rs.35,262/- and Rs.34,830 per ha, respectively under farmers practice. Technologies demonstrated under CFLDs also had positive influence on net return and thereby benefit cost ratio (B:C ratio) over farmers practice. The net return ranged from Rs.22,345/- to Rs.27,840/- per ha under recommended practice as compared to Rs.10,369/- to Rs.15,262/- per ha in farmer's practice. It was observed that the additional returns ranged from Rs.14,476/- to Rs.16,630/- per ha under recommended practices during the years. The higher benefit cost ratio was also recorded under recommended practices and the observed B:C ratio was 2.03, 2.11, 2.16 and 2.05 during 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, respectively as compared to 1.54, 1.66, 1.76 and 1.65, respectively under farmers practice. These results are in accordance with the findings of Gurumukhi and Mishra (2003)^[11], Singh *et al.*, (2018)^[13] and Jayalakshmi *et al.*, (2018)^[14].

Table 1: Difference between technological intervention and farmer's practices under CFLD on Black gram

Particulars	Technological intervention in CFLD	Farmers practices	Gap
Variety	PU 31	Local/own seed	Full gap
Seed rate	20 kg/ha	25 kg/ha	High seed rate
Sowing method/spacing	Line sowing (30 × 10 cm)	Broadcasting, uneven plant population	Partial gap
Time of sowing	June 15 to 15 July	July 15 to 15 August	Partial gap
Seed Treatment	Seed treatment was done with 2.5 gm of Carbendazim, 5 ml of Imidacloprid per kg seed and with Rhizobium culture	No seed treatment	Full gap
Fertilizer	Balanced fertilizer application as per soil test values, 44 kg of urea in split dose, 250 kg of ssp and 34 kg of mop as basal dose/ha	Imbalanced use of fertilizer 50 kg urea as top dressing and 50 kg of DAP as basal dose/ha	Full gap
Weed management	Application of Imazethapyr 10 SL 75 g a.i. ha ⁻¹ at 15-20 DAS	Manual weeding at 35-40 DAS	Full gap
Plant Protection	Neem oil @ 5 ml/ha and Chlorpyrifos 2.5 ml/lit of water for control of sucking pest. Practiced Integrated measures to control, Yellow vein mosaic virus by growing maize/jowar as boarder crop, removal of weeds on bunds and finally chemical measures	Injudicious use of insecticides and fungicides based on advice of input dealers	Partial gap with high cost

Table 2: Grain yield and Gap analysis of cluster frontline demonstration on Black gram

Year	Sample Area (ha)	Sample No. of farmers	Average yield (Q/ha)			% increase over FP	Technology gap (q/ha)	Extension gap (q/ha)	Technology Index (%) CFLD
			Potential	CFLD	FP				
2016-17	10	47	12-14	9.48	6.35	49.2	3.52	3.13	27.07
2017-18	10	34	12-14	9.50	6.50	46.15	3.5	3.0	26.92
2018-19	20	54	12-14	9.60	6.53	47.01	3.4	3.07	26.15
2019-20	10	25	12-14	9.53	6.45	47.75	3.47	3.08	26.69
Average	-	-	13	9.52	6.45	47.52	3.47	3.07	26.63

Table 3: Economic analysis of the cluster frontline demonstrations on Black gram

Year	Total return (Rs per ha)		Input cost (Rs per ha)		Net return (Rs per ha)		Additional return (Rs per ha) CFLD	B:C ratio	
	Recommended Practice (RP)	Farmer's Practice (FP)	Recommended Practice (RP)	Farmer's Practice (FP)	Recommended Practice (RP)	Farmer's Practice (FP)		Recommended Practice (RP)	Farmer's Practice (FP)
2016-17	43,845	29,369	21,500	19,000	22,345	10,369	14,476	2.03	1.54
2017-18	47,500	32,500	22,500	19,500	25,000	13,000	15,000	2.11	1.66
2018-19	51,840	35,262	24,000	20,000	27,840	15,262	16,578	2.16	1.76
2019-20	51,460	34,830	25,000	21,000	26,460	13,830	16,630	2.05	1.65
Average	48,661.2	32,990.25	23,250	19,875	25,411.25	13,115.25	15,671	2.08	1.65

Note: Price of black gram @ Rs.4625.00 q⁻¹ in 2016-17, Rs.5000.00 q⁻¹ in 2017-18, Rs.5400.00 q⁻¹ in 2018-19 and Rs.5800.00 q⁻¹ in 2019-20

Conclusion

The cluster frontline line demonstrations (CFLDs) conducted by KVK had enhanced the yield of black gram vertically and ensured rapid spread of recommended technologies of black

gram production horizontally by implementation of various extension activities like training programmes, field days, exposure visits etc. organised under CFLD programmes in farmer's field. The CFLDs made a positive impact on yield of

black gram by 47.52%. It was observed that the potential yield of black gram variety PU31 can be achieved by imparting scientific knowledge to the farmers, providing the quality need-based inputs and their proper utilization. Therefore, it is suggested that policy maker may provide adequate financial support to frontline extension system for organising CFLD under the close supervision of agricultural scientists and extension professionals. This strategy may help to increase the pulse crop productivity at micro, meso and macro level.

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